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USC quarterbacks coach suspended

G.A. Mangus arrested for nuisance conduct in Greenville

James Kratch
JKRATCH@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

South Carolina quarterbacks coach G.A. Mangus has been suspended indefinitely after being arrested for nuisance conduct early Tuesday morning in Greenville, S.C.

“G.A. has been suspended from all coaching activities until this matter is resolved,” said USC coach Steve Spurrier in a statement. “We are disappointed in his actions and will handle it accordingly.”

According to a Greenville City Police Department incident report and multiple media reports, Mangus was seen by two officers in an unmarked police car “facing Main Street urinating on the street curb and roadway” at 1:31 a.m. outside of the Carolina Ale House restaurant. When an officer called to the scene by the two

officers arrived, the report stated he observed Mangus to be “unsteady on his feet” and with “a strong odor of

alcoholic beverage coming from his person.”

The report further stated that Mangus’s eyes “appeared to be dilated and glazed over” and his speech was “slurred” as he was “uncooperative” in answering police questions before he was handcuffed and taken to the Greenville County Detention Center. Mangus was held overnight before being released about 10 hours later after a 9:30 a.m. hearing. Mangus will be fined \$470 for the incident.

Mangus declined comment when asked by Greenville’s WYFF-TV outside of the detention center after being released. Mangus was in Greenville to attend the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association All-Sports Clinic according to The State newspaper.

Later on Tuesday, Mangus released a statement through the USC Athletics Media Relations department.

“Last night I acted irresponsibly, and I deeply regret my actions,” said Mangus in the statement. “I take full responsibility. I would like to publicly apologize to coach Spurrier, (Athletics Director) Eric Hyman, the entire team and everyone associated with the University of South Carolina.”

This coming season, which officially begins a week from today on Aug. 3 with the first preseason practice, will be Mangus’s third at South Carolina. Mangus came to USC from Middle Tennessee State, where he served as offensive coordinator for three seasons.

A native of Richmond, Va., Mangus played quarterback at the University of Florida, including two



Richard Pearce / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Quarterbacks coach G.A. Mangus was arrested in Greenville early Tuesday morning for nuisance conduct.

seasons under then-UF coach Spurrier. He has gained a reputation as a top recruiter due to his success in securing USC commitments from the Northeastern states, and he is widely regarded as a major reason for embattled and currently suspended quarterback Stephen Garcia’s on-field improvement over the last two seasons.

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Courtesy of Irma Van Scoy

An USC early childhood education teaching intern works with her elementary class and coaching teacher.

Educators visit USC for hands-on training

Teachers learn how to serve on accreditation teams

Ryan Quinn
RQUINN@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

This week, USC’s College of Education helped teach teachers to grade how other teachers teach their students how to teach.

Around 80 preschool to college educators visited Columbia Sunday through Tuesday to learn how to serve on accreditation teams that evaluate colleges of education around the country. On Monday, they visited with more than 70 members of USC’s professional education community, including faculty and students, and conducted interviews and evaluations as part of a hands-on training experience.

“As opposed to getting trained on

theoretical stuff where they’ve made up this university, we got a chance to do a simulated site visit,” said Mark Meyers, dean of the College of Social Sciences, Health and Education at Cincinnati’s Xavier University.

The National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) chose USC’s College of Education because of its strong showing in its accreditation in Fall 2010.

“[The faculty] did all the same interviews they had done just last year for their visit,” Meyers said. “Not only did they act as if they were in an interview, but they also took time immediately after to say, ‘You might have been able to get more out of me if you asked this type of thing.’”

SCHOOL • 4

MCEA hosts workshop series for aspiring artists

Industry professionals speak on experience, tricks of trade

Kristyn Sanito
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The Midlands Center for Expressive Arts is hosting a series of workshops aimed at providing tricks of the trade to aspiring artists of all ages and skill levels in the local area. The MCEA Artist Roundtable Workshop Series highlights individuals in such fields as writing, theater and music, and the gatherings feature speakers at the professional level.

Charles McKenley, the founder and program coordinator of MCEA, created the organization as a need for the community after meeting several talented, artistic people in the Midlands area who didn’t know how to go about creating a professional career in the arts for themselves.

“I graduated from

Presbyterian College with a degree in music performance and great tools for auditioning, but I didn’t know where to go, what the next step was,” McKenley said. “I created MCEA to provide a hub for artists helping other artists in training, performance opportunities, the business aspect — everything they need but aren’t taught how to do.”

The first workshop of the series, held Saturday, July 16, was titled “The Writer’s Voice” and focused on just that — aspiring poets, authors and playwrights listened to advice from professionals in the industry on how to find their voices as writers and how to get their works published.

“I always wished I had the opportunity to speak with people in the field to know how they’re doing, how they got their start,” McKenley said. “Sometimes it’s luck, but learning tricks of the trade is what this workshop is about, to help boost artists’ careers.”

The workshop featured Charlene Spearen, the associate director for the South Carolina Poetry Initiative and a professor of English at Allen University, who spoke about her experience becoming a professional poet after already having established a separate career and a family, finishing a collegiate career and receiving her doctorate later in life.

Author Shirley Ann spoke about her experience writing and publishing her book “What Mommy Needed to Know,” a work based on the tough conversations she wished she had with her mother but never did.

McKenley spoke on behalf of playwrights and his experience of having one of his plays featured at the National Black Theatre Festival.

Alisa Brewer, a resident of West Columbia who enjoys poetry and creative writing as a hobby, attended the workshop

MCEA • 2




Kristyn Sanito / THE DAILY GAMECOCK


Artistic individuals of a variety of ages and talents attended MCEA’s Artist Roundtable Workshop Saturday to listen and take notes on advice from professionals in the arts industry, including music, theater and dance.

WEATHER

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MIX

INSIDE



Tonya Tyner

The USC alumna, whose album drops in September, shares her songwriting process with The Daily Gamecock.

See page 6

SPORTS



Garcia to be reinstated

Coach Steve Spurrier says the quarterback will most likely be back in the football program this season.

See page 10

MIX

ONLINE



National album reviews

Chloe Gould reviews the latest releases by Kaiser Chiefs, Arctic Monkeys and Big D and the Kids Table.

Online @ dailygamecock.com

SCHOOL • Cont. from 1

On Tuesday, the educators compared their evaluations to the conclusions of the actual team that accredited the college.

School accreditation is a somewhat complex affair. NCATE accredits colleges of education specifically, as opposed to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), which accredits USC and other Southern institutions as a whole. In order to be accredited by NCATE, a Southern school must first be accredited by SACS, and in order for a public institution in South Carolina to teach education, it must be accredited by NCATE.

NCATE's on-site review squads are called Boards of Examiners and are composed of academic peers. These peers can range from kindergarten teachers to heads of

college education departments. Yi Huang, NCATE's vice president of accreditation, said a combination of USC's excellent showing last year and the complexity of its professional education unit made it an ideal place to train examiners.

"[USC] has lots and lots of programs at initial and advanced levels, goes through national program reviews, has over 60 different combinations of programs, has national recognition and has an excellent partnership with schools to help address the schools' needs," Huang said.

Meyers also extolled USC's professional development school network, saying he knew of it before visiting.

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Courtesy of Irma Van Scoy

USC early childhood teacher education students and faculty members created a poster session last October for the NCATE Board of Examiners review.



Courtesy of Irma Van Scoy

USC teacher education students work with children at an elementary school as a part of the students' teacher education program.

New!

MYSTERY

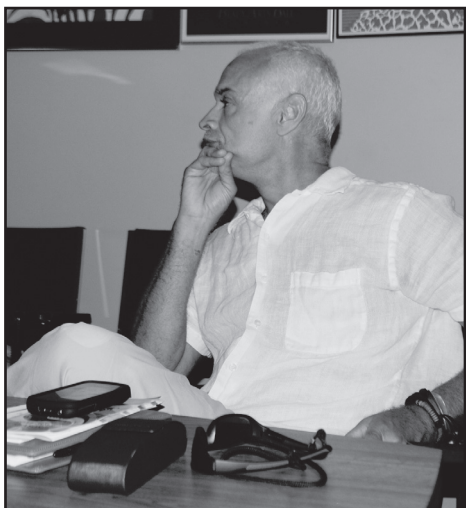
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Attendees of MCEA's workshop "The Big Stage" this Saturday listen to a variety of industry professionals, including Eric Bultman (bottom right) of Sumter Little Theatre.

MCEA • Continued from 1

to get back into writing and learn more about publishing.

"MCEA offers a place and chance for my talent and desire for art to be recognized and inspired. So far, I got to meet other emerging artists and hear from those well into the success of their craft," Brewer said. "Though last weekend was my first encounter with MCEA, I've met many wonderful people, been invited to attend — and have attended — other poetry events around Columbia that I otherwise wouldn't have known existed."

The second workshop, "The Big Stage," was held Saturday, July 23, and focused on music, theater and dance elements of the arts. McKenley described the gathering of attendees and speakers as "a time to share our journeys and where we are in the arts as individuals."

Linda Carr, owner of Linda's Carraoke Karaoke and DJ Entertainment, spoke of her professional singing and instrumental experience in a band and how she was able to eventually turn her passion into a full-time business career.

One of the speakers

present was recent USC visual communications graduate Nddi Ekpenu. A self-taught dancer, Ekpenu spoke of her experience dancing with the group Ricochet, joining the co-ed dance fraternity Delta Phi Delta and choreographing a routine that won a Spurs and Struts dance competition, among a number of other dance events.

"Dancing is something I'm always going to do," Ekpenu said. "I have a couple of jobs here and there where I'm getting paid to dance, but I guess you could say I'm a realistic dreamer, keeping extra jobs in case things don't work out."

The workshop also featured Eric Bultman, the executive director of Sumter Little Theatre and an adjunct professor of theatre at USC Sumter who received his MFA in theatre at USC Columbia and spoke of his personal story of establishing a career as an actor.

"You know that feeling you get right before the lights come up on stage? That feeling you get in here?" Bultman asked the attendees of the workshop, pointing to his chest.

Bultman referred

to that feeling as the "artist's fire," the desire to perform or create that needs to be expressed in order for artistic individuals to be happy and proud of their talent. Despite the common element of worrying about finding a career or enough money in the arts, Bultman encouraged artistic attendees to pursue their passions.

McKenley spoke of his experience of performing on stage as a singer.

"The conversation and connections made with the people who attend have been invaluable," McKenley said.

The final MCEA Artist Roundtable Workshop "The Package" will focus on arts management — how to market and promote artistic work and how to secure the right talent agent. The workshop will be held Saturday, July 30, at the Columbia Music Festival Association building at 914 Pulaski St. from 1 to 3 p.m. Those interested may register online at midlandscenter.com. Registration is \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of.

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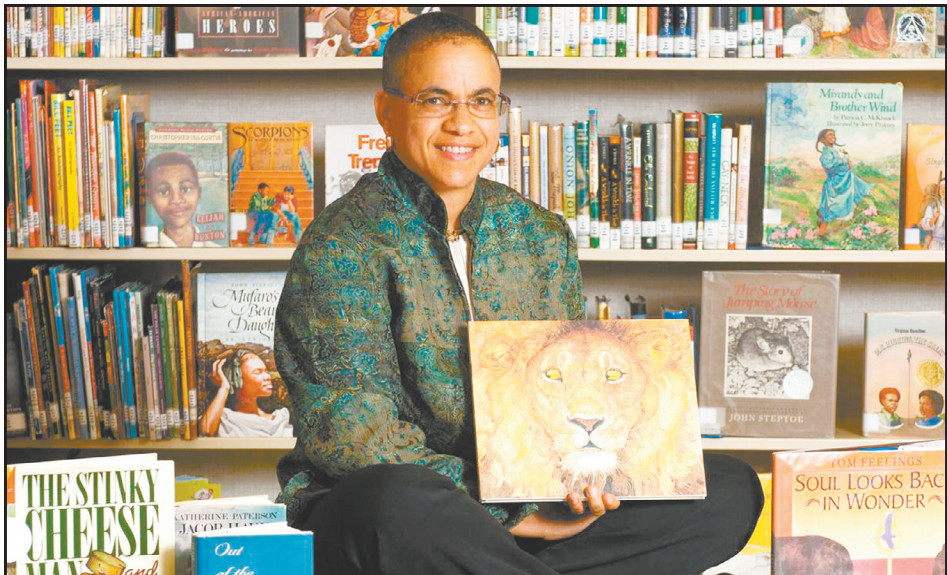
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Courtesy of USC Media Relations
Michelle Martin is the first holder of the Augusta Baker Chair in Childhood Literacy.

Martin receives Augusta Baker honor

Clemson professor first holder of endowed chair

Mikelle Street
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Michelle Martin, a Clemson

University English professor who specializes in children's literature and African-American children's literature and community literacy programs, has been named the first holder of the

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Augusta Baker Chair in Childhood Literacy.

Martin, who knew Augusta Baker as a child, will conduct research on literacy and oversee outreach programs for the literacy community throughout the state. According to Kim Jeffcoat, the executive director of USC's School of Library and Information Science's South Carolina Center for Children's Books and Literacy, Martin will work closely with the center on developing family literacy programs.

The center plans to approach literacy in a more holistic way, addressing financial literacy, nutritional literacy, as well as health care literacy. Jeffcoat calls Martin an expert in successful

literacy outreach and says Martin will also assist with the center's existing programs like the nationally recognized Cocky's Reading Express, a collaboration between Student Government and the School of Library and Information Science that serves students in 4-year-old kindergarten through third grade.

Martin said that she sees the chair as a way to help stamp out illiteracy in South Carolina and also plans to create an umbrella for literacy programs that will enhance them and minimize duplication.

The Augusta Baker Chair, is the first endowed chair in the state named for a black female.

Baker was a children's librarian and storyteller who served as USC's

storyteller-in-residence for 14 years. Thomas Cooper Library holds a collection, which goes by the full name of the Augusta Baker Collection of African-American Children's Literature and Folklore and was donated by Baker's son.

"The Augusta Baker Collection is very much a live and dynamic collection," said Elizabeth Sudduth, a librarian at Thomas Cooper. "We're continually adding to it."

The collection originally held more than 1,600 books but now is composed of more than 29,000 books. According to Sudduth, this collection is frequently used by researchers as well as students. The collection includes titles from Baker's personal and working library as well as stories used by

Baker during her career as a storyteller.

While performing her duties as chair, Martin will also continue teaching children's and young adult literature courses like ones on The Picture Book, The Newbery and Caldecott Awards, the Coretta Scott King Awards and Ethnicity and the Child. Next year, Martin also plans on finishing her current book on the children's literature of Arna Bontemps and Langston Hughes, works that are not very well-known.

Martin has also used Baker as a base before, when she was compiling information for her book "Brown Gold: Milestones in African American Children's Picture Books 1845 - 2002," which drew from the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of African-American children's books that Augusta Baker established in the Countee Cullen branch of the New York City Public Library.

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LOCAL



Courtesy of scstatehouse.gov

South Carolina Lt. Gov. Ken Ard says he will not resign from office despite his ethics violations.

Lt. Gov. Ard not resigning

Embattled South Carolina Lt. Gov. Ken Ard arrived at the State House today, saying he will not resign from office despite a pending state grand jury's investigation onto his ethics violations.

"I have no plans to resign," the first-term Florence Republican told reporters as he walked into his office at the State House in advance of the Senate's 2 p.m. special session to take up redistricting. "We are cooperating fully with the AG's (attorney general's) office to bring this thing to a conclusion."

The State Ethics Commission fined Ard \$48,400 for illegal use of campaign contributions. State Attorney General Alan Wilson along with State Law Enforcement Division Chief Mark Keel have requested a state grand jury investigate Ard's case to see if any crimes occurred.

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Mangus’s conduct crass, hypocritical

The irony of USC quarterbacks coach G.A. Mangus’s arrest and resulting indefinite suspension was certainly not lost on us.

Considering he is widely regarded as a primary factor for the on-field improvement of currently suspended quarterback Stephen Garcia, who has had his own share of behavioral problems and arrests, you’d think Mangus would do his best to appear to be a positively influential mentor for Garcia, quarterbacks and all players.

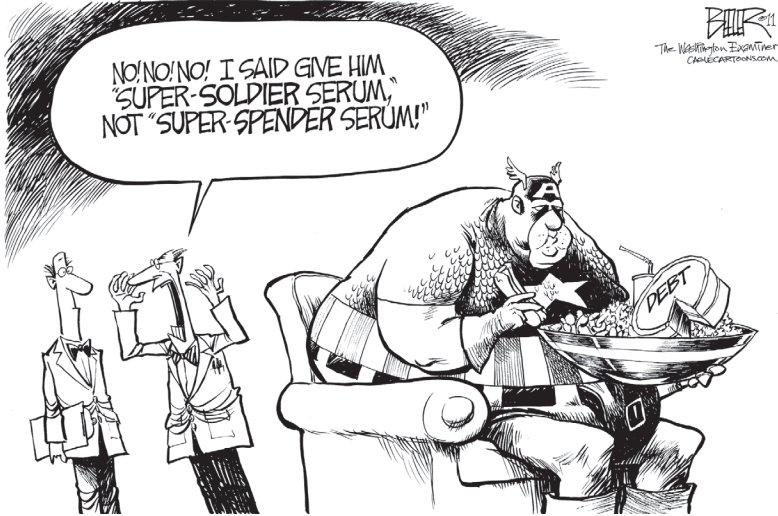
Instead, Mangus was arrested in Greenville, S.C., early Tuesday morning for “nuisance conduct” — drunkenly urinating in public.

“If athletes are to be held to certain behavioral standards, coaches should be as well.”

This occurred, no less, while he was representing the university at a South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association All-Sports clinic.

Mangus has been indefinitely suspended from all coaching activities as a result of his actions, and rightfully so. If students and athletes are to be held to certain behavioral standards, coaches and faculty should be as well. They represent USC and our football team, and South Carolina really doesn’t ever need any additional bad publicity for inappropriate behavior and run-ins with the law.

It’s good to know that Mangus apologized and takes full responsibility for his actions, but it would’ve been nice if he had thought about the consequences of such hypocritical conduct beforehand.



A PINCH OF WINCH

Premature death prevalent among stars

Pressure leads young celebrities to turn to drugs, alcohol

As the famous Billy Joel song goes, “Only the good die young.” While Amy Winehouse’s behavior definitely can’t be classified as “good,” it’s hard to deny that the tattooed soul singer, who was found dead in her London apartment on Saturday afternoon, had talent. I mean, the woman won five Grammy Awards for her album “Back to Black.” That’s a big deal.

So why couldn’t Winehouse see the potential in herself? Although the cause of her death has yet to be officially determined, it’s no secret that the singer had some serious addictions and wasn’t exactly a role model in her daily life. She often made headlines because of her substance abuse, violent relationships, eating disorders and hospitalization. Who can forget her Grammy acceptance speech in which she dedicated her win to “my Blake incarcerated” or when she was found in a hotel on horse tranquilizers? In reference to Winehouse’s smash hit “Rehab,” Associated Press writer Jill Lawless said, “Few artists summed up their own career in a single song — a single line — as well as Amy Winehouse.”

I believe Winehouse likely could’ve earned several more awards if her offstage life didn’t take a downward spiral. She was 27 years old when she



Kristyn Winch
Third-year print journalism student

died. If you’re as big of a pop culture enthusiast as I am, you know that 27 is an important number. Winehouse isn’t the first mega talent to pass away at that age. She joins the ranks of Janis Joplin, Jimmi Hendrix, Jim Morrison and Kurt Cobain. All of these performers were successful on stage but battled various demons and addictions in their offstage lives. Their untimely deaths have broken the hearts of fans across several generations, but the coincidental number has left many people wondering if this age of death could be more than a strange occurrence.

Being thrust into the spotlight must be a very nerve-racking experience. To go from being unknown to posing for the cover of Rolling Stone magazine would be a difficult adjustment for anyone. Fans expect so much from their heroes, too. Imagine what it must be like to leave everyone you care about behind in order to tour the country (or possibly internationally) and perform every night for a different crowd in a different city. Imagine the constant probing of the media, anxious to know every detail of your life ranging from who your musical influences are to who you share a bed with.

It shouldn’t be surprising that many superstars turn to drugs and alcohol to help ease the pressure of the public eye. It’s a shame that this pressure sometimes drives talented people over the edge to the point of self-destructive behavior and even suicide. Twenty-seven is only the starting point of a person’s career. I only wish I could’ve heard more music from these legendary artists.

Athleticism impressive in cycling races

Tour shows ability, strength

Steroids: check. Players returning from retirement to win championships: check. Severe injuries: check. What sport could contain all of these entertaining aspects and be broadcast during this time of year? Cycling.

As the Tour de France came to a close on Sunday, I was captivated by the struggles and victories these athletes achieved throughout the race. Traveling 2,132 miles, these cyclists ride rain or shine over a distance equivalent to driving from Columbia to Las Vegas. Split up into 21 stages that vary in distance, each rider is part of a team that fights to have the lowest combined time throughout the race. The individual winner has the lowest overall time. Although this sport may seem boring to some, I admire the strategy and endurance of these athletes. It’s my personal belief that their performances over the course of the tour proves their athleticism is equal — if not greater — than the participants in the biggest sports in America.



Zach Hudson
Fifth-year economics student

So what if you can run a 40-yard dash quickly or swing a bat at a ball one or two nights a week? Granted, I enjoy watching the games, but they seem dull in comparison to cyclists. This doesn’t mean I believe Lance Armstrong standing at 5-foot-9 would pose much of a threat snaking down a football field, but cyclists have to push their bodies to the absolute limit more than athletes in other sports do.

Another enticing aspect of the Tour de France is the chance to cheer for individual riders or teams, which makes the Tour de France bring out the nationalism in the viewers. This year, an Australian part of the American BMC Racing Team won. Another member of this team was George Hincapie from Greenville, S.C. I’ve never really taken the time to follow this sport before, but I’ll definitely be keeping up with it after this event. I urge anyone who wants to see some amazing athletes check out cycling races and upcoming tours.

NBA needs to find alternative ways to cut losses

Association should consider shortening players’ contracts, terminating women’s league

A bunch of entitled, overpaid guys — who do you think of in the NBA? Using the show “Entourage” as an analogy, the NBA players are Vince Chase; the owners are Ari Gold. Talent puts on the performance and is compensated by owners. Vince makes money without Ari. Vince has a unique talent that prints money. Ari does too. Ari can shift to new clientele, open his own agency or invest in an NFL team. But Vince is putting on the performance and Ari is negotiating behind the scenes. The players are the most important entity and expense for the owners. Alternatives must be examined to remove the losses in the NBA. Contracts should be shortened to a maximum of four years, the WNBA must be canned, former players should not be hired as general managers and jerseys must be used as advertisements.

Gilbert Arenas and Rashard Lewis are currently in \$100 million contracts. They

struggle to crack a starting five on their teams. The NBA is hesitant to shorten contracts because achieving guaranteed, long-term contracts was a big step at the time. But shortening contracts allows more money to go to deserving players. This season Arenas is making around \$18 million. He should make around \$4 million. That leaves \$14 million that could be going to more deserving players. The NFL gets grief because they cut loose players as often as Antonio Cromartie cuts child support checks. But players are forced to play at the highest level, deserving players are paid and overall quality of play is at its peak.

The WNBA is a PR expense for the NBA. This is not a time for luxury expenses. It’s time to be rid of the WNBA in order to save money — and around three minutes of “SportsCenter” highlights a night.

The most successful business minds in the world receive years of academic business training or real-world experience to gain



Doug Remington
Fourth-year marketing student

expertise. The NBA has too many GMs who are former players. Former players sympathize with current players and pay for past performances. Former NBA players are a necessity in the coaching huddle, but individuals who have managed \$100 million budgets, finances and statistics should manage NBA teams.

The NBA is brand conscience and doesn’t want to take a card out of the soccer deck and put Adidas or Sony on jerseys. But the \$100 million naming rights to stadiums would be matched in some circumstances if the NBA allowed teams to sell advertisements and naming rights for jerseys.

The NBA is not looking to fix problems wisely. They play the media game and paint athletes as overpaid. The NBA is great because of the recognizable brands and faces its stars become. No other place in sports is as intimate as a courtside NBA game. There are no helmets, pants and baseball hats to cover the players. One player can change a team unlike any other sport because there are only five starters per team. It’s time for the NBA to show some creativity by exploring untapped areas.

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via e-mail to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author’s name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position. Guest columns are limited to three per author per semester.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

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CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. E-mail sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu and we will print the correction in our next issue.

“Every relationship I’ve been in, I’ve overwhelmed the girl. They just can’t handle all the love.”
— Justin Timberlake

theMix

USC alumna releases inspirational new album

Tonya Tyner to play at White Mule Thursday

Thad Moore
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

A native Kansan and a 1995 graduate of USC, Tonya Tyner, who now resides in Austin, Texas, has moved fairly widely across the United States, living, at times, in Virginia and California as well. It seems somewhat appropriate, then, that the singer-songwriter croons a soft and twangy Americana. Her music is largely dominated by her lyrics and vocals with strong themes of love, heartbreak and God. Though her debut album “Beautiful Light” won’t see its nationwide release until Sept. 12, copies will be available at a discounted price of \$10 at The White Mule this Thursday, where she will be performing at 7 p.m. The Daily Gamecock spoke with Tyner while she was visiting Columbia for her 20th high school reunion.

The Daily Gamecock: How has being from Columbia influenced your music, and how did you start making music?

Tonya Tyner: A lot of my strong friends came from this area; your core personality is sort of fleshed out ... through your high school and early college years, and that all happened here. I was really more of a poet in high school. I hadn’t really started writing any songs; I was just writing poetry, you know, teen angst ... But I was singing, of course, in chorus all four years, and I learned a lot about tone and as a vocalist learned a lot of skills there. But it was my mother’s guitar, and I picked that up

at the end of my high school days and had my first gigs here in Columbia [with Dave Britt and former local rock band the Dharma Dogs] at Groucho’s Deli, and they had me open up for them.

TDG: What are your biggest inspirations, and in high school, were there any artists who really influenced you, and what about now?

TT: Well honestly, in high school, I was just following the trends; I was big into classic rock then, like Steve Miller. Then I got more into the Grateful Dead and Led Zeppelin. I think everything you listen to affects [your music], but most of the influence most people hear in my music is more from music I listened to with my family. Running through all that is a common ground, which is the song and the lyrics. I’m a lyrics person; you can probably tell that from listening to my music. I like words, and I want them to mean something, and I want to hear them and discern them from the music, and in that respect everything I listened to shaped that a bit.

TDG: How would you describe your songwriting process then?

TT: Oh, it really just depends on the day. It’s almost always very lyrics-driven, though. Like, I’ll think of a phrase, and I’ll play with it and jot it down. I have a balcony in my apartment in Austin with a big sliding glass door, and I got those wax crayons that you can write on the windows with, and I’ll just write down that phrase, and I’ll leave it there so I can see it clear across the room. That way it stays on my mind



Courtesy of tonyatyner.com

Tonya Tyner, a 1995 graduate of USC, will be performing at The White Mule Thursday, July 28 at 7 p.m.

... It’s like writing an article or an essay; you need to have a theme, a main idea. As you start to figure that out, the language and other little snippets. Once I’ve got enough of an idea, I’ll sit down with my guitar, and I’ll try to hammer out a melody to go with it. That process is very long and tedious. It’s painstaking because you want to get it right.

TDG: Listening to “Beautiful Light,” it’s pretty clear that religion plays a prominent role in your music. How would you describe that relationship?

TT: Well, I would describe it, as you said, as a relationship. I think people get afraid of the word “religion,” and there are a lot of negative connotations. I myself left the church for a good 20 years, and I have a

great respect for the body of the church as it was intended, and I’m a very active member of my church now, but it wasn’t the church that moved me. It was my relationship with God, which is something that happens through prayer and studying. One day you’re sitting there, and you feel the presence of God. Once you experience that, if you have that grace, it’s a constant craving of trying to continue to connect. It kind of just creeps into my music; I never really intend to put it in there.

TDG: So I guess it’s not entirely purposeful, but are those goals you try to achieve with your music, trying to share that relationship?

TT: In the long run, I’d like to start a conversation

with somebody. I would like for people to experience the peace and the forgiveness and the love that I personally experience, but that’s my path. I’m not about to force that on somebody else ... but if I can sing a song that touches someone and helps someone remember, “Oh man, I miss that in my life,” that gets them thinking about that and praying and exploring that relationship, then that would be totally awesome. I would love to help someone feel and experience what I’ve experienced. I can only share what I’ve experienced; it might not be your thing.

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Courtesy of allmoviephoto.com

Mila Kunis and Justin Timberlake star in the new romantic comedy “Friends with Benefits,” the story of two friends who think casual sex is the solution to their relationship woes.

‘Friends with Benefits’ balances cliched plot with strong cast, script

Timberlake demonstrates wide range of talents in new rom-com

Tyler Simpson
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

“Friends with Benefits”
NOW IN THEATERS

Director: Will Gluck
Starring: Justin Timberlake, Mila Kunis, Woody Harrelson
Rating: R for sexual content and language

I’m definitely not the first to write this in a review, but “Friends with Benefits” is obviously comparable to the similarly themed “No Strings Attached,” which came out about six months ago. Both films revolve around a “best friends fall in love” formula, while including a premise about engaging in casual sex. Still, there’s a big difference between the two films: Where “No Strings Attached” faltered, “Friends with Benefits” triumphs.

“Friends with Benefits” is a romantic comedy that doesn’t offer anything original and contains a predictable story. This, however, can be forgiven since devoted lovers of the genre watch to see the fantasy of two young, attractive individuals meeting and falling in love. The aspects that really make the movie stand out in the genre are its well-drawn characters and the remarkable chemistry between Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis.

Dylan (Timberlake) is a blog editor from Los Angeles who lands a head position in New York City’s GQ magazine headquarters thanks to corporate headhunter Jamie (Kunis). Dylan and Jamie are both emotionally damaged after repeated failed attempts to find love and gain a mutual friendship. Having not seen “No Strings Attached,” they decide to engage in an informal sex-centered relationship and swear on an iPad Bible app that emotions will not complicate their current relationship.

However, as previous movies of its kind tell us, it’s impossible to engage in casual intercourse without feelings getting in the way. As with “No Strings Attached,” the film establishes the point that the two are perfect for each other but are afraid of revealing their feelings because it would ruin what they have.

The sharp script gives the film a sense of cleverness and self-awareness, fully admitting how exasperatingly cliched the rom-com genre has become. At one point in the film, the friends watch a film starring an uncredited Rashida Jones and Jason Segel, which serves as a satirical example of every Nicholas Sparks cliché known to man. It also makes a self-referential comment on how nothing happens in romantic comedies after the “big kiss” moment, referring to the post-happenings as “pornography.”

The strongest aspect in “Friends with Benefits” is the chemistry between Timberlake and Kunis that keeps audiences interested up to the point of their foreseeable coupling. Their likability easily makes them worth rooting for as they engage in humorous, sharp banter that makes half the sex scenes completely hysterical to watch. Being the R-rated film that it is, the script also presents some

smart, raunchy dialogue as the leads verbally bounce off each other.

From his comical guest appearances on “Saturday Night Live” to his dramatic turn in “The Social Network” (2010), Justin Timberlake just continues to impress. With his comedic charisma, Timberlake is amiable in his portrayal of Dylan and provides plenty of laughs when he’s rapping to Chris Cross or singing Semisonic’s “Closing Time.” Not very often do multidimensional female characters find their way into romantic comedies, but Kunis brilliantly portrays a character that is sassy, foul-mouthed and independent — yet admittedly emotionally wounded.

The film contains a few subplots that involve Jamie’s relationship with her mother and the problems within Dylan’s family. These subplots would have been the film’s downfall had the supporting characters not been well-cast. Patricia Clarkson stars as Jamie’s hazy-minded, free-spirited mother who is seemingly between relational engagements. Richard Jenkins plays Dylan’s father who suffers from Alzheimer’s disease and occasionally forgets to wear pants. Woody Harrelson steals every scene he’s in as Dylan’s macho, homosexual office colleague.

Aside from its overused pop-music soundtrack and repeated jokes involving flash mobs and pop-culture references, “Friend with Benefits” serves as a great retreat from this summer of superheroes and sequels. It’s sexy, it’s raunchy, it’s funny and it works.

Comments on this story?
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‘Captain America’ period piece tells true underdog story

Rushed ending only downfall of Marvel film

Tyler Simpson
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

“Captain America” NOW IN THEATERS

Director: Joe Johnston
Starring: Chris Evans, Hugo Weaving, Tommy Lee Jones
Rating: PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi action and violence

With the on-screen adventures of Iron Man, the Hulk and Thor already introduced, “Captain America: The First Avenger” serves as the final prequel for the impending “Avengers” film. Without his needed participation, the all-American superhero’s entrance into cinema probably would have never occurred, as Captain America isn’t one of Marvel’s well-boasted heroes.

Nonetheless, “Captain America” is “marvelous” summer entertainment that offers a sense of World War II nostalgia, underdog fortitude and classic comic book sensibility. Though it can’t help but feel like a two-hour advertisement for the upcoming “Avengers” film, it establishes itself as one of the greater Marvel superhero films with its retro decor, pulpy action and wonderful performances.

The plot revolves around the same basic formula moviegoers have seen before in the superhero genre: normal man turns into a superhero, superhero

has an arch nemesis, superhero has a love interest, etc. What really differentiates “Captain America” from an indefinite number of superheroes is the underdog story and the movie’s presentation as a period piece, which offers some reimagination of possible events that happened behind the scenes of the conflict against the Nazis.

Taking place in the early years of the World War II era, Chris Evans plays Steve Rogers, a scrawny, patriotic young man who repeatedly gets denied recruitment into the army due to health problems. His hatred for bullies and zealous sincerity about serving his country catches the attention of German scientist Dr. Abraham Erskine (Stanley Tucci), who recruits Rogers into a group of soldiers selected as potential candidates for a “super-soldier” experiment. After an act of self-sacrificing heroism, Rogers becomes the first test subject.

The experiment proves to be a success, giving

Rogers superhuman abilities and enhancing his physical appearance. Despite his desperation to join the front lines, the government decides to use Rogers for a war bonds promotional stage act. However, after hearing his best friend Bucky (Sebastian Stan) has been captured by a Nazi science organization called HYDRA, Rogers springs into action against Johann Schmidt (Hugo Weaving), aka Red Skull, the organization’s leader, who is planning on harnessing the power of a Norse energy cube.

Director Joe Johnston (“Jumanji,” (1995) “The Wolfman” (2010)) makes great use of the “Indiana Jones”-styled action and requisite special effects. The CGI effects that shrink Chris Evans down to a sickly, 90-pound weakling are especially stunning to behold. However, Johnston’s strengths in directing are displayed in the film’s softer scenes and his attention to period detail, revealing his experience in working with traditional Americana in “The

Rocketeer” (1991) and “October Sky” (1999).

Chris Evans has experience starring in superhero films as he portrayed the narcissistic Johnny Storm in “Fantastic Four” (2005) and its sequel “Rise of the Silver Surfer” (2007). In “Captain America,” he displays a balanced sense of reticence and self-assurance that makes the red-white-and-blue wonder an appealing hero. Joining him in the line of great performances are British Hollywood newcomer Hayley Atwell as secret agent bombshell Peggy Carter, Dominic Cooper as millionaire inventor Howard Stark and Tommy Lee Jones as Col. Chester Phillips, another addition to Jones’s list of petulant authority figures.

While some minor issues in the film involve the romance and climatic battle, the biggest issue stands on the fact that it’s nothing

more than an origin story. It’s a great origin story, but it eventually becomes eclipsed by the mechanics of connecting “Captain America” to the “Avengers” film. After the movie becomes invested in Captain America taking down Nazis, the writers turn their attention on how to merge Captain America into modern time. This shift in focus causes the climactic battle to feel rushed into and the romantic subplot to feel somewhat contrived. It also deprives the potential franchise of its adventurous World War II appeal, disappointing audiences who wish to see more of Captain America’s escapades against the Nazis.

F o r

comic book fans, “Captain America” has all the right elements, including the comic book “BAM-POW” and the cameo appearance of Stan Lee. After the ending credits, the movie presents a teaser trailer for “The Avengers,” getting audiences primed and ready for the summer of 2012.

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Are the Palestinians Ready for Peace?

Why Arab intransigence makes peace most unlikely.

Just as all the presidents since Harry Truman before him, President Obama is spending much time, effort, and political capital trying to bring about peace between Israel and the so-called Palestinians. If history is any guide, he will be as unsuccessful in this endeavor, just as every one of his predecessors.

What are the facts?

Many attempts at peace. In order to understand the unlikelihood of peace in the Middle East, it is necessary to trace the history of peace-making attempts between Israel and the Palestinians. Virtually all of them resulted in complete failure. Here is a list of only the most important of such events.

The enmity of the Arabs against the Jews in their midst and the violence against them predates the creation of the Jewish state. There were some peace proposals during the British Mandate (prior to 1948), but they were in vain and deserve little mention in this narrative. Notable was the Peel Commission proposal in 1937, in which the creation of an Arab state was suggested, but the Arabs rejected it.

The most important proposal in the history of peace making was the 1947 U.N. Resolution to create a large Arab state with the Jews receiving two disjointed pieces, consisting mostly of much of the coastline and the Negev Desert. Jerusalem was to be internationalized. The Jews accepted the plan. The Arabs totally rejected it. Instead, they invaded the nascent Jewish state with the armies of five Arab nations, in hopes to “drive the Jews into the sea” (one of their favorite imageries). Of course, that isn’t the way it turned out. Instead, about 650,000 Arabs fled the area, mostly under the goading of their leaders. Remarkably, their descendants, even today, are called “refugees,” supported by the United Nations, which means mostly by the United States.

Every year for the last 60+ years, the Arabs memorialize the “Nakba” (catastrophe) of the creation of the State of Israel. But, of course, without the war that they imposed on Israel, there would be no “Nakba.” Just as Israel, the Arabs would now be able to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of their Palestinian state.

From 1948 to 1967, Jordan occupied the “West Bank.” During the nineteen years of their tenure, not

a word was heard about forming a Palestinian state in the area. After the 1967 Six-Day War, in which the Israelis trounced the combined armies of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, Jordan’s occupation of the “West Bank” ended and so did Egypt’s occupation of Gaza. At that time, Israel offered the hand of friendship to the Arabs, which was rudely rejected when the Arabs issued the Three No’s of Khartoum: No Peace, No Negotiation, and No Recognition of Israel. Another important opportunity that would have radically changed the history of the Middle East was missed.

Never-ending efforts at peace. In 1993 and 1995 Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo Accords with the aim of creating a Palestinian state within five years. Israel agreed to withdraw from parts of the West Bank and Gaza. Israel turned over most of its administration of the territories to the Palestinian Authority (PA). But, the Palestinians violated their commitments, thus scuttling the agreement.

In 2000, Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered to withdraw from 97% of the West Bank and 100% of Gaza. That proposal also guaranteed Palestinian refugees the right to return to the Palestinian state and offered reparations from \$30 billion of international funds that would be collected to compensate them. Arafat rejected the deal.

In 2003, Israel’s Prime Minister Ariel Sharon agreed to negotiate with the Palestinians according to the “road map” formulated by the United States, Russia, the European Union, and the U.N. The Palestinians never fulfilled their obligation to normalized relations with Israel and to arrive at a comprehensive peace. Another missed opportunity!

In 2005, Israel unilaterally decided to evacuate every soldier and citizen from Gaza. The “reward” for Israel’s evacuation was for the Palestinians to launch rockets into Israel from Gaza at an almost daily rate. There were further attempts in 2007 by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and in 2010 by Prime Minister “Bibi” Netanyahu, but all have ended in failure.

The above chronology is only a partial one, giving only the most important highlights. There have been negotiations, conferences, plans, and meetings almost uninterrupted. All of them have foundered. The “all-or-nothing” mentality of the Arabs, their unwillingness to recognize Israel as a Jewish state, and the Arabs’ expressed desire to destroy the hated Jews, have kept peace from flowering. What a shame! If the Arabs had accepted the 1947 partition plan and had not invaded the nascent Jewish state with the armies of five Arab countries, they would not now have the need today to commemorate their “Nakba.” They could be celebrating their country’s 63rd anniversary, their enduring peace with Israel, and could be part of the tremendous prosperity that Israel has brought to that region of the world.

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Facts and Logic About the Middle East
P.O. Box 590359 ■ San Francisco, CA 94159
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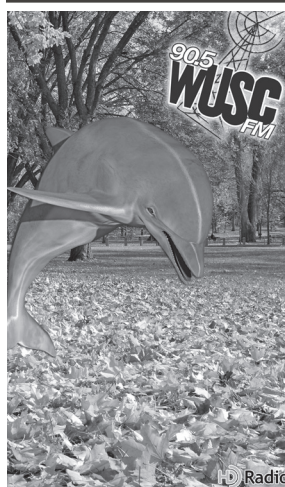
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6	7	8	1	2	9	1	9
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Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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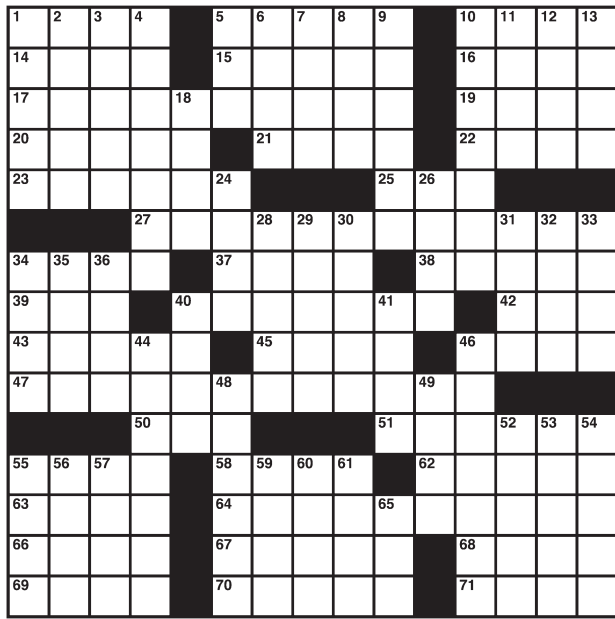
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23 Silky sweater
25 Bard of boxing
27 It's poured into an
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37 King with jokes
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40 Aerialist's apparatus
42 Pictures on the wall
43 Back biter?
45 "Without a doubt!"
46 Mars' Greek
counterpart
47 United Kingdom
currency
50 Heavy drinker
51 Tranquilize
55 Plastic user's concern
58 Words of woe
62 Autobahn autos
63 Length times width
64 Fur bartered by
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66 Highlands dagger
67 "Bye for now"
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69 High school skin
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70 Idyllic spots
71 Sources of iron
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7 Bullets and

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11 Swedish furniture giant

12 Flintstone pet

13 Aral and Arabian

18 Traditional round dance

24 Miles away

26 Act like a couch potato

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29 Drink à la Lassie

30 Juan's January

31 Russian ruler of yore

32 To be, in Burgundy

33 Charlie Brown's

"Darn it!"

34 Doorway feature

35 Sign of spoilage

36 Java neighbor

40 Small jazz group

41 Olympian ruler

44 In jeopardy

46 Total numerically

48 Pony's place

49 In the vicinity

52 "Please be ___

and ...": polite

request words

53 Spanish squiggle

54 These, in Madrid

55 Baby's pop

56 "Tears in

Heaven" singer

Clapton

57 Swiss capital

59 Lettuce purchase

60 Brisbane buddy

61 Fifty-fifty

65 Medical drama

settings, for short



Richard Pearce / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

With the end of the NFL lockout, former USC kicker Spencer Lanning will sign a contract with the Chicago Bears.

Former Gamecocks sign with NFL

End of lockout results in seven pro contracts for USC players

James Kratch
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With the National Football League lockout over, franchises are now free to return to business as usual and sign free agents.

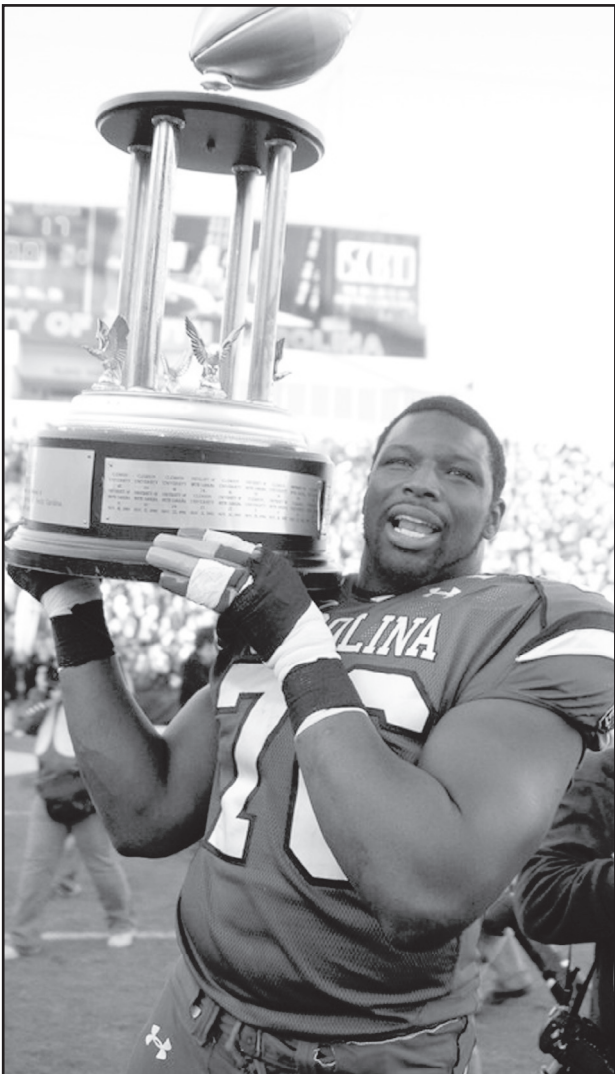
For seven undrafted former

South Carolina Gamecocks, the end of the work stoppage has been a welcomed one, as they have agreed to contracts according to various media reports.

Tight end Weslye Saunders will sign with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Defensive lineman Ladi Ajiboye will join the Seattle Seahawks. Offensive linemen Garrett Chisolm and Jarriel King will report to the Miami Dolphins and the

New York Giants, respectively. Wide receiver Tori Gurley will join defending Super Bowl champions the Green Bay Packers. Fullback/tight end Patrick DiMarco will be in camp with the San Diego Chargers and kicker/punter Spencer Lanning will sign with the Chicago Bears.

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Courtesy of gamecocksonline.com

Former USC offensive lineman Jarriel King will be reporting to the New York Giants.



Courtesy of gamecocksonline.com

Former USC offensive lineman Garrett Chisolm has agreed to sign a contract with the Miami Dolphins.



File Photo

Former USC tight end Weslye Saunders will sign with the Pittsburgh Steelers.



File Photo

Former USC fullback/tight end Pat DiMarco will sign with the San Diego Chargers.

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which won its second straight College World Series last month, will remain a source of inspiration for his team.

“Of course, we’re fired up about our baseball team winning back-to-back national championships,” he said. “It’s not only super and great for our university and for the baseball program, but it sort of sends a message to all the other sports: ‘Hey, it can be done at South Carolina.’ We admire coach Tanner, the team, the way they played. They played well. They played like winners. We’re all extremely proud of what the baseball team has accomplished the last couple years.

“So that gives us hope that maybe, hey, something big in football, basketball, some of the other sports can start happening.”

That being said, Spurrier wasn’t quite ready to buy much into the hype his team received at the Wynfrey Hotel courtesy of the attending media.

“You know we lost our last two games last year, so we’re not sitting around patting each other on the back too much,” Spurrier said. “We got clobbered in the SEC game by Auburn and didn’t play when the game was on the line. Against FSU in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, we fought back, got back in the game, but when it was on the line, didn’t do much.

“We’ve got a long way to go. I think it’s nice to have the magazines say

we’ve got a chance. Some of them are picking us to win the East. We know that Georgia, Tennessee and Florida were down last year. That’s what gave us hope and probably the big reason we won the East last year. Whether or not they’ll be down this year, only time will tell. You don’t know. We, again, have a ways to go.”


Roberston on Clowney, Garcia: Senior defensive tackle Travian Robertson, who was one of three USC players in attendance at SEC Media Days, said heralded freshman Jadeveon Clowney has looked good since enrolling early and beginning workouts with the team.

“He’s a great guy. He’s fitting in well,” Robertson said. “He’s been there a few weeks. He’s young and we’ve got a lot of work to do, but I think he’s going to play a good part on our defense this year. He’s got a lot of speed. We’ve just got to figure out where we’re going to put him.”

Robertson was also supportive of embattled quarterback Stephen Garcia, saying Garcia’s teammates want to see him finish his career the right way.

“It’s whatever Coach wants to do with him,” Robertson said. “We’ve been supporting him real well. He’s been with us the entire time, so we want to continue to play with him and finish this last year.”

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Garcia likely to be reinstated this season

USC coach Steve Spurrier says quarterback has been following behavioral guidelines

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With summer practice set to start a week from today, fifth-year quarterback Stephen Garcia remains on track to be reinstated to the South Carolina football program according to coach Steve Spurrier.

“Stephen has done well,” said Spurrier last week at SEC Media Days in Hoover, Ala. “He has some guidelines he must follow to be reinstated in August. He’s done everything we’ve asked. He’s certainly behaved very well, gone to all the workouts from what I understand. So right now he in all likelihood will be set to return.”

Garcia was suspended indefinitely on April 7 — the fifth suspension of his career at USC — after an incident at an SEC-mandated life skills seminar. At the time, Garcia was given a set of guidelines by Spurrier, Athletics Director Eric Hyman and USC President Harris Pastides that he had to fulfill in order to be reinstated for his final season. After making sufficient progress, Garcia was partially reinstated prior to the start of the Summer I session and team workouts, and now, it appears, he will soon be fully reinstated.

Many have criticized Spurrier for his seemingly endless patience with Garcia. Despite being suspended on five separate occasions, the Lutz, Fla., native has yet to miss any playing time due to punishment. When asked about these claims, Spurrier defended Garcia to a point, saying his various incidents haven’t merited a dismissal.

“I guess we don’t want to kick him out for stupidity,” said Spurrier, drawing laughs from the media members in attendance. “Basically we do believe he’s a good kid, good person. He’s already graduated. He’s graduated. With this latest incident, we told him he could go play somewhere else if he wanted to, but he wants stay there.

“He’s really made some lifestyle changes to stay there. Hopefully it will keep up. We just felt like he was worth giving another opportunity to sort of change his lifestyle, and thus far he’s done it.”

Even if Garcia is reinstated, Spurrier wouldn’t go as far as to guarantee the incumbent starter his job once he returns, saying he and backup Connor Shaw will both have a chance to win the position in camp. Garcia, who is closing in on several Gamecock career passing records, started all 14 games for USC last season, throwing for 3,059 yards and 20 touchdowns, while Shaw, a sophomore, appeared in nine games off the bench



Richard Pearce / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Fifth-year USC quarterback Stephen Garcia will most likely be reinstated to the football program this season.

as a true freshman, completing 69.7 percent of his passes.

“[Garcia] and Connor Shaw will battle it out a little bit,” Spurrier said. “Stephen played well last year, other times not so well. He may be our best quarterback, but we’re going to have a little competition in preseason this year. Connor Shaw has been a year there now.

“We feel whoever our quarterback is, he needs to go out and earn it in preseason practice. So we’ll have some competition for the quarterback job.”

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Mark Humphrey / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Coach Dawn Staley will be inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame next year.

Staley inducted into Hall of Fame

Women’s basketball coach, assistant honored

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Six individuals will be inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame on June 9 of next year in Knoxville, Tenn.

Two of them are current Gamecocks. USC women’s basketball coach Dawn Staley and her assistant Nikki McCray were both elected to the hall’s 2012 class this weekend.

“What a great honor for these two women, and what a great staff we have in our women’s basketball program,” said Athletics Director Eric Hyman in a release. “Dawn and Nikki have achieved everything today’s young players are aiming for themselves, and I can’t imagine better role models to have on our sideline.”

Staley was an All-American at the University of Virginia, playing in three NCAA Final Fours. From there, she went to the WNBA, where she had a seven-year career that made her one of the league’s 15 greatest players in history as recently voted. Staley also was a player

of three Olympic gold medal-winning U.S. national teams.

“It is a true honor to be selected to the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame,” said Staley in a release. “I thank the panel of voters that allowed me to be inducted with my friend and colleague Nikki McCray. We both join pioneers and peers of our beloved game that helped us reach this wonderful milestone.”

McCray was an All-American at the University of Tennessee and part of two Olympic gold medal teams and a three-time WNBA All-Star.

“The Hall of Fame is one of the highest accomplishments for an athlete, and I am truly humbled and honored to be inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame,” said McCray in a release. “It has always been a dream of mine, and I would like to thank the committee for selecting me.”

The other four inductees into the Class of 2012 will be players Inge Nisson and Pam McGee, ABC broadcaster Robin Roberts and Washington University coach Nancy Fahey.

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Notebook: USC named favorite to win SEC East

Preseason media vote first in program history

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For the first time in program history, South Carolina was named the preseason favorite by media vote to win the SEC East at last week’s conference Media Days in Hoover, Ala.

For USC coach Steve Spurrier,

reaching new milestones is part of the thrill of the job.

“That’s the fun part, achieving things that never happened before,” Spurrier said. “Our fans there at South Carolina, I think, have paid their dues over the years because not much has happened in football or really a lot of sports.”

Spurrier said the USC baseball team,

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Richard Pearce / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC’s junior wide receiver Alshon Jeffery was a major asset to the Gamecocks’ first victory of the SEC East championship last season.